

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 10-12, 15-17, and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, and 16 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-13, and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Matsuo* (USP 5,179,505); rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ejima et al.* (USP 5,805,219) in view of *Matsuo*; and rejected the remainder of the claims using a variety of combinations of references. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Matsuo*. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 11 to include the elements set forth in claim 13 and further to recite, *inter alia*, wherein the operation of the chamber mechanism is the opening of a lid for closing the opening of the chamber. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the Matsuo disclosure is directed to an ejector for a memory card. The system includes a card detecting member for detecting that the memory card is connected to the connector, a card lock member for locking the memory card by moving to a lock position as the card detecting member moves, and a switch means for detecting that the card lock member is in a lock position, to control the power circuit components of the apparatus (col. 2, lines 55-61).

Matsuo further provides for a card detecting switch 18, normally in an ON state, being mounted below the connector 17, the switch 18 being turned OFF only when the memory card 3 is coupled to the connector 17. The card detecting switch 18 turns ON a main switch when it is in an OFF state, to thereby power circuit components of the camera. In this manner, Matsuo teaches powering the electronic still camera 2 can be automatically executed. In addition, an unnecessary consumption of power can be prevented when the memory card 3 is still not loaded and taking a picture is impossible (col. 4, lines 53-63).

It is respectfully submitted that Matsuo fails to teach or suggest wherein the operation of the chamber mechanism is the opening of a lid for closing the opening of the chamber. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11, together with claims

dependent thereon, is not anticipated by Matsuo and it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 16 to recite, *inter alia*, wherein the operation of the chamber mechanism is the opening of a lid for closing the opening of the chamber. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment is being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 16 contains elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 11, and thus, claim 16, together with claims dependent thereon, is not anticipated by Matsuo.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima et al. in view of Matsuo, the Examiner admits Ejima et al. fails to teach or suggest a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply. The Examiner relies upon the teachings of Matsuo to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of Ejima et al. As noted above, it

is respectfully submitted that Matsuo additionally fails to teach suspending power when the detector detects that the lid is opened. As the art cited by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is ON, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during suspension of the power supply it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, together with claims dependent thereon, is patentable over Ejima et al. in view of Matsuo. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

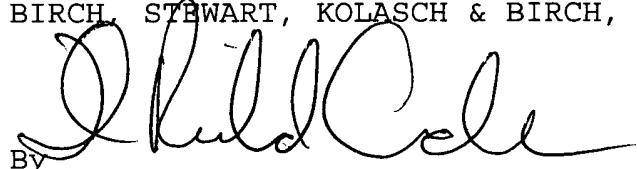
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

Curv
DRA/jdm
0879-0234P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000